

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10383 160314Z

22

ACTION EA-09

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R 160222Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518

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FOR EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC (GOULD, FRANK)

SUBJECT: W/W FRANK GOULD

REF: MANILA 5190

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED AIDE TO SECDEF ENRILE JULY 15 TO INQUIRE REGARDING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF GOULD CASE PROMISED IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST. AIDE SAID ONLY PARTIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE HENCE FULL REPORT NOT YET PREPARED. HE SAID CABLE RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM COL. TEOFISTO GAURANO OF SULU SEA FRONTIER COMMAND TO EXPLAIN REPORT IN APRIL 16 FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW STATING THAT GAURANO HAD SEEN GOULD IN TAWI-TAWI IN EARLY 1975 BEFORE HE EMBARKED FOR SABAH.

2. ACCORDING GAURANO CABLE, HE FACILITATED GOULD ACCESS TO TANDUBAS ISLAND, TAWI-TAWI, ON JUNE 22, 1974, FOLLOWING ACTION IN WHICH REBELS HAD BURNED VILLAGE. GAURANO SAYS HE HELPED GOULD BECAUSE HE HAD CORRESPONDENT ACCREDITATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN INFORMATION. GAURANO AGAIN PERSONALLY SAW GOULD (FOR LAST TIME) IN SEPTEMBER 1974 WHEN ARMY HELPED HIM VISIT CAMP OF SOMETIME REBEL LEADER (SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED) JUSUP DAIS IN MANDULONG, SANGA-SANGA ISLAND, TAWI-TAWI. GAURANO DID NOT SPECIFY PRECISE DATE OF SANGA-SANGA VISIT BUT IS CERTAIN IT TOOK PLACE BEFORE "BIRTHDAY OF TAWI-TAWI PROVINCE " (WHICH WAS CREATED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE DATED SEPT 23, 1974). SUBSEQUENT
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PAGE 02 MANILA 10383 160314Z

TO THIS, GAURANO PICKED UP SECOND HAND REPORTS THAT

GOULD HAD EMBARKED VIA HIGH SPEED MOTOR LAUNCH (KUMPIT)
FOR SABAH. GAURANO DID NOT WITNESS THIS HIMSELF AND
DID NOT HAVE DATE.

3. AIDE INSTRUCTED GAURANO IN NAME OF ENRILE THAT HE
CONTACT WITNESSES WHO ALLEGEDLY SAW GOULD LEAVING FOR
SABAH AND OBTAIN SWORN STATEMENTS WITH MORE
DETAILS, INCLUDING DATES IF POSSIBLE. ENRILE HIMSELF
HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED THAT FURTHER INFORMATION BE OBTAINED
FROM COTABATO (KIDAPAWAN AREA) WHERE MOST RELIABLE
INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE INDICATES GOULD LAST
SEEN ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1974. WHEN THIS INFORMATION
RECEIVED, ENRILE'S OFFICE WILL PREPARE COMPLETE REPORT.
AIDE UNCERTAIN HOW LONG THIS WILL TAKE. EMBOFF
REITERATED HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST IN CASE, INCLUDING
CONGRESSIONAL, AND EXPRESSED AMBASSADOR'S HOPE THAT
AVAILABLE INFORMATION BE OBTAINED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE INFORMATION DOES NOT TRACK WITH
ACCOUNT IN FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW ACCORDING WHICH
COL. GAURANO PERSONALLY SAW GOULD LEAVING FOR SABAH
IN EARLY 1975 (NOT 1974.) PRESUMABLY GAURANO WAS
MISQUOTED OR MISUNDERSTOOD. HOWEVER, NEW INFORMATION
MERELY ADDS ANOTHER STRAY ALLEGATION TO MASS OF FACT
AND RUMOR SURROUNDING GOULD DISAPPEARANCE AND GET US
NO RPT NO CLOSER TO SOLVING PROBLEM OF WHY AND
WHERE HE VANISHED.

5. FOR EA/PHL: PLEASE PASS INTERESTED PARTIES IN H
AND SCA/SCS. STRIKES US THAT IT WOULD BE JUST AS
WELL NOT TO PASS THIS TO GOULD FAMILY UNLESS CONTACTED,
BUT RATHER WAIT UNTIL FULL ENRILE REPORT AVAILABLE.
WE NOTE THAT CONTRARY TO OUR ADVICE, FAMILY HAS AGAIN
ALLOWED CASE TO BE EXPLOITED BY ANTI-MARCOS EXILE
PRESS (SEE PHILIPPINE NEWS OF JULY 10-16) WHICH IS
HARDLY GOING TO ENCOURAGE GOP COOPERATION WHEN THEY
LEARN OF IT.

6. NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION.
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PAGE 03 MANILA 10383 160314Z

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